

March 8, 2010

Written Testimony  
of Neil J. Hornish  
to the  
Connecticut General Assembly Education Committee  
In **SUPPORT** of HB5423, An Act Concerning Dissection Choice

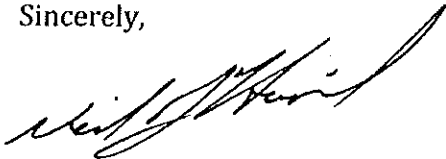
Dear Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for HB5423, An Act Concerning Dissection Choice. As a humane educator, I have spent the last seven years discussing a variety of social justice issues with Connecticut students. Time and time again I have had students express concern with the dissection requirement, asking for ways to opt out of participating in the dissection.

The impression I get from the students to whom I speak is that they are eager to learn about anatomy, but they have ethical objections to the use of animals in the classroom. I believe the passage of HB5423 would provide a much-needed option for many students who would prefer to learn anatomy using methods that they see as more humane. I believe not having alternatives to dissection is an injustice and sends the wrong message to students, in that it may force students to betray their beliefs or may dissuade students from pursuing a career in biology or other sciences.

I know this bill has been raised in previous years with significant House support. I am confident that with the support of the Education Committee, HB5423 will easily pass through the House and the Senate and allow students to balance their studies with their ethical beliefs.

Sincerely,



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